



QCHCA's John Schmuck, Susan Haddon and mystery guest at our hot dog sale. Thanks to event hosts at Lumber World. Mystery guest's identity? See back page.

Empowering Community

Richard Atwell – Mayor of Saanich

As Mayor of Saanich, I am very excited and enthusiastic about our future. I campaigned on a platform of open government and public participation which I believe is the key to unlocking our future and a more open-door policy was just the beginning of political change in the Mayor's office that came with last year's election.

During the past ten months, I've met with a variety of residents, community associations, local organizations and non-profits, elected representatives, government officials, business people and many others.

From these many discussions, I've more appreciation for the great diversity, dedication and devotion that exists within our community.

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President's Message- 2015

John Schmuck – President QCHCA

Welcome to the Fall Edition of Community Roots. Many thanks to Mayor Richard Atwell for his accompanying article and for attending our next general meeting on Nov. 24th as our guest speaker.

This issue of our newsletter addresses planning for the future of your Community Association. **We hope you take the time to read about changes in the organization and plans for keeping your association focused on supporting our community.**

We recently initiated a strategic planning process to determine how best to serve this community. Please see the accompanying article by QCHCA Vice-President, Susan Haddon on our preliminary plans.

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Empowering Community: *From Pg. 1*

What common interest emerged? It is clear that we all exhibit and share a true passion for our municipality and its future.

It is the responsibility of an elected council to select from the many issues we face in our communities and then direct our tax dollars, but councils are merely approving bodies compared to the community associations which operate at the grassroots level and are best positioned to represent the needs and interests of residents in a healthy democracy.

While listening and respect comprise the cornerstone of governance, we are only able to truly measure our effectiveness as a governing body by taking stock of the actions that followed from effective public participation.

Public participation begins by informing and consulting the community but to release the full potential and to get the best results, it is essential to not only involve the community early on but imperative to collaborate with and ultimately empower the community in the final decision-making.

Community associations play a vital role in governing our great municipality and must be fully incorporated into the decision-making process if we are to develop a vision for Saanich and realize it. I encourage you to get very involved with your community association so we can realize our dreams for a progressive and prosperous Saanich.

Richard Atwell, Mayor of Saanich



President's Message: *From Pg. 1*

You are encouraged to provide input on the process and overall priorities as outlined in Susan's article. Should you be interested in serving on any of our standing committees or standing for an executive position, please contact me or Susan Haddon.

After five years as president, it is time for me to hand over the reins to a successor. This enables the important process of re-examining priorities and renewing our organization.

I am pleased to report that the QCHCA is doing well. We are in good financial shape and our membership is growing. I will remain on the executive as Past President of QCHCA to contribute in any way that I can.

This has been another busy summer for your Community Association. Playfair Park picnic was held on Sunday, July 19th as reported in this issue. We held two Music in the Park events at Rutledge Park as organizer Chris Bartlett has reported in her accompanying article. Many thanks to Chris for all her hard work organizing this year's events.

Throughout the year we have organized and facilitated neighborhood consultation with Saanich staff and developers on applications for subdivisions, rezoning, commercial development permits, townhouse developments and more. We have participated with Saanich on parks issues, pedestrian pathway improvements, planning the update of Local Area and Corridor Plans, the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan, the upcoming Douglas Street Corridor and Saanich's Strategic Plan.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our third annual Christmas turkey dinner at the Cedar Hill Golf Course Clubhouse on Thursday, December 10th. We hope that many of you will choose to join us as outlined in the separate notice in this issue.

Very best wishes,

John Schmuck: johnschmuck@shaw.ca

Shaping our Future

Susan Haddon: VP - QCHCA

We are at an important point in the life of QCHCA. President John Schmuck will step down as President in March 2016. The QCHCA Executive decided to undertake a strategic planning exercise to determine our most important priorities and how we can best organize to continue to serve our community.

Our preliminary plan has five priorities:

- a) **Communication** - How do we best keep our community informed of upcoming changes, etc.? How do we initiate and maintain an ongoing dialogue with community members?
- b) **Events** - Which events does our community value? How do we support them on an ongoing basis (volunteers, resources)? With whom might we partner?
- c) **External liaison** - How do we best connect with neighboring community associations, relevant municipal and other committees and task forces in the region and all the other community groups to share our voice and keep the community informed?
- d) **Infrastructure and green space** - How do we ensure that changes to the community's infrastructure (transportation routes, housing, commercial developments and green space, etc.) are informed by community input and are well planned and executed?
- e) **QCHCA organization** - How should we organize to achieve the priority goals? What would encourage more community members to serve on the Executive, a project team or committee?



Tug-of-War at Playfair Picnic 2015

What do you think? Are there priorities we've missed? In what ways can you help? Let us know your thoughts and/or how you'd like to help by emailing John Schmuck, Susan Haddon, or any member of the Executive.

This is a great opportunity for you to help us shape our collective future as a community. Please let us know your priority concerns, join us on projects, get involved on a committee, or join our Executive team. We're a small group of volunteers with busy lives outside of the QCHCA and **need** your help if we're to make Quadra Cedar Hill **the** place to live in Saanich.



All smiles!!! BMO hot dog team at Playfair Picnic - 2015

Donations for the Less Fortunate

Ruth Emery: Director QCHCA

As Fall is here and it's time to dig out the woollies and wellies, please also think of those less fortunate than ourselves. Coats, shoes, sweaters, jeans, socks and other clothing are all sorely needed by Our Place, 919 Pandora Ave. Your donations of food and personal items are also always very welcome, as is financial support. Our Place is open 24/7 for donations.

If you have kids who have outgrown their clothing, think about dropping it off at Mustard Seed, 625 Queens Avenue, where in addition to a food bank, families living in poverty also welcome gifts of clothing.

Editor's Update

Our Community Roots Newsletter is published in the spring and fall by the QCHCA. Please send your suggestions and comments to: prhaddon@gmail.com

Many thanks to the staff at Staples, Aristos Mail and to all our volunteers who bring Community Roots to your mailbox.

Playfair Picnic – July 2015

John Schmuck - Picnic Coordinator

Playfair Park picnic was held on Sunday, July 19th on a very hot summer day. Thanks to all members of the community and volunteers who came out to enjoy the band 'Russell in the Bushes', all the stall presentations, the children's athletics, cake, hot dogs and so much more.

Special thanks as always to our sponsors who make the event possible: **Megson Fitzpatrick Insurance, Thrifty Foods (Quadra & Cook), Ron & Betty Otke, Hansbraun Investments, Noble Car Buyers, Dennis Sanders, Seaspan International, and of course the enthusiastic staff from Bank of Montreal (Oak & Saanich Branch).**

We are looking for a new lead coordinator for the 2016 QCHCA Picnic event to be held in one of our local parks. Please contact me should you be interested in volunteering in this or any supporting capacity.

Duke-Bridgeport Path Reopens!

Peter Lewis – Community member

For over 40 years the path, connecting Duke and Bridgeport, has been used by local residents for access to Maplewood, Playfair Park and Quadra. The path allowed walkers to avoid the dangerous walk down the narrow, winding sidewalk on Tattersall.

Unfortunately half of the connecting path trespassed on private property. In 2013 new owners understandably complained and the pathway closed. Thanks to the Saanich GIS mapping system, we discovered that a legal right-of-way does exist between the two streets but the terrain was very rugged and impassable due to a cliff.

Not discouraged, local residents got together to draft a letter to Mayor and gathered over 100 signatures on a petition.

With support from QCHCA, Saanich listened, consulted with neighbors, and came up with a practical design. The new path will be mostly gravel-surfaced with a staircase, and wheel channel for bicycles to navigate the cliff at the Bridgeport end. The project will start on Wed. Oct. 21st and be completed by early November.

A neighbourhood work party to spread the top layer of gravel is tentatively scheduled for Sat. Nov. 7th from 11:00 until 2:00.

Contact: Peter Lewis, email: cplewis@shaw.ca

QCHCA Christmas Dinner Party December 10th 2015

John Schmuck - QCHCA President

We will be hosting the QCHCA Christmas party at the Golf Clubhouse in Cedar Hill Park at 5:30 pm on December 10th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$25 per person. **RSVP to Chris Bartlett.** 250 479 4809 Email: bartlettca@shaw.ca

Around the Parks

Peter Haddon – Editor

Dumping in the Parks: To the many volunteers who work in our Parks, it is heart-breaking to find mounds of garden waste, furniture and junk dumped into the bushes from paths and parking areas. This is happening in many Saanich Parks. Why not use Saanich's many recycling facilities?

Rutledge Park: The plan for a splash pad play feature and washrooms at Rutledge has been presented to the local community by Saanich Parks in their first community consultation session. A survey was conducted in the summer and survey results to date show strong community interest in these amenities.

Cedar Hill Park: The restoration of the Bowker Creek area is a particular focus with the 5th clean-up event planned for October 24th. Friends of Cedar Hill Park have coordinated with Saanich Parks to plant shrubs and trees on the west side of Bowker Creek and install a split rail fence to discourage dumping along the creek banks. The Friends meet every Monday morning to work in the Park. Contact: FriendsofCedarHillPark@gmail.com

Camrose Park: The area of the park on Maplewood that caught fire in the summer continues to recover. A team of volunteers under lead steward Wylie Thomas works in the park about 5 times a year.

Playfair Park: Saanich Parks' plan to improve the pathways through the park included an extended period of consultation. Work will be completed in the fall. For the Playfair Pulling Together volunteer schedule contact John Schmuck email: johnschmuck@shaw.ca

Cuthbert Holmes Park: Saanich Parks has completed a 5-year planning and consultation effort to prepare a Master Plan for this park. This plan was approved by Council and is an example of what QCHCA is seeking for Cedar Hill Park. Check Saanich Parks' website for details.

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and Golf Course

Sun Marshall - Marketing

Clubhouse at Cedar Hill Golf Course

The Clubhouse at Cedar Hill Golf Course is the perfect venue for weddings, tournaments, meetings & banquets. Please contact us to plan your event. We also offer daily coffee, baked goods and light lunches.

The Snack Window and Beverage Cart have closed for the season. Effective Saturday, October 10th, our facility hours are:

Monday to Friday - 10:30am to 3:30pm
Saturday & Sunday - 8:30am to 4pm.
December 24th to January 7th - closed

Please note: In the event of inclement weather and course closure, Clubhouse Food & Beverage Services will be reduced to 10:30am to 2pm.

Contact: Geoff Parker at 250-475-7156 for event information and available dates.

Foot Golf comes to Cedar Hill Golf Course!

Come and give it a try. It's loads of fun for everyone! Foot Golf uses golf rules and involves kicking a soccer ball from golf tees into a cup placed off the golf fairway. It's easy to play. If you can kick, you can play foot golf.

We have a great introductory offer of \$9.00 for nine holes. Bring your own ball or rent one for \$5.00. Book a tee time on Saturday to Monday afternoons by calling 250 475 7151.

The Gallery Café at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

The Gallery Café will be closed from December 19th to January 3rd inclusive.

Cedar Hill Arts Centre and Gallery

The Arts Centre will be holding a Holiday Market for pottery, arts and crafts on Saturday November 21st from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Free admission and parking!



Foot Golf at Cedar Hill Golf Course

Cedar Hill Park Walk Event May 14th 2016

Barb Latham - Coordinator

Mark your calendar to join us for the Cedar Hill Walk event on Saturday May 14th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Instead of working up a sweat, come to enjoy our local news and history, location by location around the Park.

We are planning several stops on the Chip Trail with speakers at each location. You will visit Bowker Creek at the wooden bridge; Kings Pond; Barwick Lake wildlife viewing deck. Stop by McRae House for a view from the verandah. Talk to Friends of Cedar Hill Park about their work. Study the birds, plants and shrubs. Drop into the Golf Club; check out programs and facilities in the Recreation Centre.

Go to the Friends of Cedar Hill Park website for further details and updates:
<http://www.friendsofcedarhillpark.com/our-projects.html>

Music in the Park 2015

Chris Bartlett - Director, QCHCA

QCHCA hosted two very successful 'Music in the Park' events at Rutledge Park. On August 4th the community gathered to enjoy the 1960's music provided by the band, Back-Beat. A week later an even bigger audience came to hear the soulful music of the 'Soul Shakers'.

It was a great way for the record-breaking crowds at Rutledge Park to celebrate summer, to share great music, dancing, good food and a host of children's activities. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this enjoyable community event.

I would also like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to all our sponsors: **Island Savings, Re/Max, Homewood Construction, Ron & Betty Otke, Tim Hortons, Pacific Audio Works, Saanich Legacy Foundation, Saanich Parks & Recreation and Saanich Public Works.**

All those who attended greatly appreciated the parking provided for the events by: **Shaw Cable, Tecnet, Kinetic Construction and The Commissionaires.**

The community groups contributing important services for these events were: **The Salvation Army, 1st Douglas Boy Scouts, Island Savings Community Crew, Saanich Police with Mascot 'Ace', Saanich Firefighters, Victoria Royals Mascot 'Marty' and the members of the QCHCA.**

QCHCA General Meeting –

November 24th

Please mark your calendar! Our next General Meeting is Tuesday November 24th at 7:00 pm, Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, Seniors' wing. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Speaker: Mayor Richard Atwell

Cook, Cloverdale and Quadra

Ruth Emery - Director, QCHCA

We live close to this intersection and watched construction of the 'complete street' section of Cook between Maplewood and Quadra. It has been open for several months and according to Saanich Engineering, traffic diverted to Maplewood has now returned to using Cook Street and the speed of traffic has been reduced. Saanich predicts that bike traffic will increase from the current 130 rides/day as riders take advantage of the routes to Cloverdale and The Goose trail.

Many people, including those living on this stretch of Cook Street, certainly like the wider sidewalks and the fact that traffic has slowed a bit. A number of neighbors remain upset that the design of this 'complete street' did not show adequate attention to the topography, leaving them to deal with steep slopes on driveways and loss of privacy.

New public and private investment in roads, retail and housing is finally underway at this neighborhood. There is a new townhouse complex on Cook behind Thrifty's. A new Backfit studio and offices will replace BMO and another townhouse development is proposed for Cloverdale in addition to the two larger condominium buildings planned in the area. Residents are encouraged to stay informed and engaged in development decisions as new proposals are brought forward.



Aspiring artists at Music in the Park- 2015

A message from your QCHCA Executive

Most community associations find their biggest challenge is growing the membership and finding volunteers to do the work of the organization. The Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association is no different. Simply put, we need more active members on standing committees and to serve on the executive.

QCHCA is your community association! Help ensure it continues as a vibrant, healthy contributor to the well-being of this community.

Your participation will help enrich your community and it will benefit you as an individual. So please consider joining us now by contacting any of the executive listed on our website.

We are serious about reducing barriers to membership, especially to the younger members of the community. Effective immediately, we are offering a complimentary membership to all students. Please contact our Membership Director, Rikki Bowman, for the details or join at our next General Meeting on November 24th.

QCHCA website.....

www.QCHCA.org

Chris Bhopalsingh: Webmaster

Let us know If you have ideas for content or wish to post your articles on our QCHCA website. Contact Chris Bhopalsingh: cbhopalsingh5@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and Golf Course

See page 6 for details.

November 21st - Cedar Hill Arts Centre

Arts and Crafts sale from 10am to 3 pm. See page 6 for details.

November 24th - QCHCA General Meeting

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 7:00pm. See article this issue.

December 10th at 5:30 pm - QCHCA Christmas Dinner Party

Golf Clubhouse in Cedar Hill Park. See article on page 5.

January 27th 2016 - QCHCA General Meeting

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 7:00pm.

March 22nd 2016 - QCHCA Annual General Meeting

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 7:00pm.

Spring Community Roots Publication

Spring edition will be published in May 2016.

May 14th, 2016 - Cedar Hill Park Walk

See article on page 6 for details.

From picture, page 1:

Mystery guest = Councillor, Fred Haynes!

QCHCA Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name.....

Address.....

Postal code.....PhoneEmail

Area of special interest?
.....

Membership fee is \$10 per person per year. Payment enclosed

\$.....

Complimentary Student membership? Please check here

Please send completed form and payment to: QCHCA c/o Rikki Bowman, 4 - 1164 Palmer Rd. Victoria BC V8P 2H6